

§ 3141.2 Prelease exploration within Special Tar Sand Areas.**§ 3141.2-1 Geophysical exploration.**

Geophysical exploration in Special Tar Sand Areas shall be governed by part 3150 of this title. Information obtained under a permit shall be made available to the Bureau of Land Management upon request.

[48 FR 7422, Feb. 18, 1983, as amended at 55 FR 12351, Apr. 3, 1990]

§ 3141.2-2 Exploration licenses.

(a) Any person(s) qualified to hold a lease under the provisions of subpart 3102 of this title and this subpart may obtain an exploration license to conduct core drilling and other exploration activities to collect geologic, environmental and other data concerning tar sand resources only on lands, the surface of which are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, within or adjacent to a Special Tar Sand Area. The application for such a license shall be submitted to the proper BLM office having jurisdiction of the lands. No drilling for oil or gas will be allowed under an exploration license issued under this subpart. No specific form is required for an application for an exploration license.

(b) The application for an exploration license shall be subject to the following requirements:

(1) Each application shall contain the name and address of the applicant(s);

(2) Each application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable filing fee of \$250.00;

(3) Each application shall contain a description of the lands covered by the application according to section, township and range in accordance with the official survey;

(4) Each application shall include 3 copies of an exploration plan which complies with the requirements of 43 CFR 4392.1 (a); and

(5) An application shall cover no more than 5,120 acres, which shall be as nearly compact as possible.

The authorized officer may grant an exploration license covering more than 5,120 acres only if the application contains a justification for an exception to the normal limitation.

(c) The authorized officer may, if he/she determines it necessary to avoid impacts resulting from duplication of exploration activities, require applicants for exploration licenses to provide an opportunity for other parties to participate in exploration under the license on a pro rata cost sharing basis. If joint participation is determined necessary, it shall be conducted according to the following:

(1) Immediately upon the notification of a determination that parties shall be given an opportunity to participate in the exploration license, the applicant shall publish a "Notice of Invitation," approved by the authorized officer, once every week for 2 consecutive weeks in at least 1 newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands covered by the exploration license are situated. This notice shall contain an invitation to the public to participate in the exploration license on a pro rata cost sharing basis. Copies of the "Notice of Invitation" shall be filed with the authorized officer at the time of publication by the applicant for posting in the proper BLM office having jurisdiction over the lands covered by the application for at least 30 days prior to the issuance of the exploration license.

(2) Any person seeking to participate in the exploration program described in the Notice of Invitation shall notify the authorized officer and the applicant in writing of such intention within 30 days after posting in the proper BLM office having jurisdiction over the lands covered by the Notice of Invitation. The authorized officer may require modification of the original exploration plan to accommodate the legitimate exploration needs of the person(s) seeking to participate and to avoid the duplication of exploration activities in the same area, or that the person(s) should file a separate application for an exploration license.

(3) An application to conduct exploration which could have been conducted under an existing or recent exploration license issued under this paragraph may be rejected.

(d) The authorized officer may accept or reject an exploration license application. An exploration license shall become effective on the date specified by